

Fall 2002

PTD Welcomes  
New Administrator

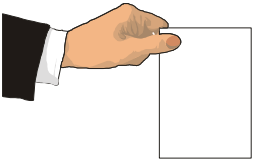
Routing Slip

\_\_\_\_\_ Managers

\_\_\_\_\_ Supervisors

\_\_\_\_\_ Mechanics

\_\_\_\_\_ Drivers



Please share the **Passenger TransActions** with other members of your staff. Don't let it get buried on your desk.

Sharon Edgar is the new administrator of the Passenger Transportation Division (PTD). She has more than 16 years professional experience in state government in various divisions of three different state agencies, including state government positions in Ohio.

Sharon has 12 years experience as a manager and supervisor. In March 2000, she was appointed as chief of the Grants Administration Division in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and, most recently, served as acting chief of the Finance and Operations Services Bureau. Her previous positions provided extensive experience working with boards and commissions, interest groups, lobbyists, elected officials, the Legislature, and the staff of the governor's office.



Sharon Edgar

Tables of Contents

FY 2003 CTF Budget Announced ..... 2

Eldorado National Issues Bulletins ..... 2

PTMS Goes to the Web ..... 3

Michigan Government Has New Web Site ..... 3

MTC Gets the Green Light ..... 3

Around the State

Branch Area Transit Welcomes New Manager .. 4

St. Joseph County Has New Transportation Coordinator ..... 4

Kalamazoo Metro Has Record Day ..... 4

Five-Year Transit Training Plan in the Works ... 4

PTD Welcomes New Employees ..... 5

Dates to Remember ..... 6

Sharon said, "I had the honor of spending some time with Kip Grimes during his last week on the job and was reassured to hear that many of the issues facing PTD - such as dealing with the restrictions of federal funds and maintaining an effective working relationship with local funding recipients - are the same issues I have faced in the grant programs in the MDNR, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. I am looking forward to applying my past experience to a new set of issues."

Sharon has a masters degree in Natural Resources/ Environmental Policy from the University of Michigan, and a bachelors degree from Michigan State University. She is currently a Lansing resident, but is moving herself and four cats to a new home in Delta Township.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Please take a few moments to complete the enclosed survey to let us know if the **Passenger TransActions** is meeting the needs of the Michigan transit community.

## FY 2003 CTF Budget Announced

The FY 2003 Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF) budget is slightly larger than the budget for FY 2002. The total budget increased by \$1,807,160, or approximately one percent. The Local Bus Operating Assistance increased by \$500,000.

The FY 2003 Local Bus Operating Program was implemented with large urban agencies receiving 36.69 percent of eligible costs and small urban and nonurban agencies receiving 43.8 percent. These percentages may be adjusted once the federal budget is passed and we complete our meetings with transit agencies on the impact of the new census numbers.

Below is a breakdown of the FY 2003 CTF budget.

Local Bus Operating Assistance	\$160,000,000
Intercity Terminals	\$2,884,800
Intercity Service Development	\$1,300,000
Intercity Bus Equipment	\$2,000,000
Marine Passenger	\$800,000
Specialized Services	\$3,939,500
Municipal Credit Program	\$2,000,000
Bus Transit Capital	\$14,549,460
Bus Property Management	\$50,000
Planning Grants	\$80,000
Ridesharing	\$330,700
Vanpooling	\$195,000
Service Development & New Technology	\$200,000
Regional Service Coordination	\$500,000
Work First Initiative	\$5,000,000
Rail Passenger	\$8,300,000
Freight Property Management	\$1,500,000
Freight Preservation & Development	\$3,592,900
Rail Infrastructure	\$100,000
Port Development	\$500,000
Audit Settlements	\$150,000
Debt Service	\$21,491,900
Administration	\$8,725,400
Interfund Grants	\$3,332,800
TOTAL	\$241,522,460



**"Providing the highest quality transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life."**

## Vehicle News

### **EIDorado National Issues Technical Bulletins**

EIDorado National issued three technical bulletins for certain buses purchased on State of Michigan contracts.

1. Issued May 16, 2002: To reduce the opportunity of the park brake cable rubbing on brake lines, secure the park brake cable to the chassis frame rail with a "P" clamp using an existing hole in the frame rail as an attachment point. This only applies to Aero Elite models equipped with a manual park brake.
2. Issued August 23, 2002: To prevent damage to OEM fuel lines, check for a protective sleeve on the fuel line located under the chassis cab on the passenger side. This applies to all Aero Elite models built on an International chassis.
3. Issued August 23, 2002: Three technical service information notices from International (TSI-02-12-05, TSI-02-12-01, and TSI-00-12-05) regarding engine overheating and radiator corrosion. This applies to all Aero Elite models built on an International chassis.

Any questions regarding these bulletins should be directed to Vic Hill at Hoekstra Transportation, Inc. (800/444-4104) or to Manny Stock at MDOT (517/373-7098, E-mail [stockm@michigan.gov](mailto:stockm@michigan.gov)).

#### **Michigan Department of Transportation**

Gregory J. Rosine, Director

#### **Multi Modal Transportation Services**

Rob Abent, Bureau Director

#### **Passenger Transportation Division**

Sharon Edgar, Administrator

#### **Transportation Commission**

Bob Bender, Chairman

Lowell B. Jackson

John W. Garside

Betty Jean Awrey

Ted B. Wahby

C. Robert Baillod, PhD

## PTMS Goes to the Web

In our effort to continually improve the Public Transportation Management System (PTMS), MDOT has begun the process to make PTMS Web-based. Migrating the PTMS to the Web has several advantages for both MDOT and the transit agencies. As a Web-based program, transit agencies may access PTMS from any computer that can access the Internet and no software needs to be loaded locally (at the transit agencies). Another advantage is that when updates occur, they are transparent to the user.

Because we feel these are very valid and important reasons to migrate PTMS, we are actively pursuing the Web migration project. The project will go before the department's information technology review team in December, so we'll keep you updated on our progress. If you need any additional information or have any comments about this project, please contact Kathy Urda at 517/335-2575 or E-mail [urdak@michigan.gov](mailto:urdak@michigan.gov).

## Michigan Government Has a New Web Site

In July 2001, Governor Engler launched Michigan's new Internet portal, [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). The new portal organizes all state services and information by theme rather than state agency, so customers no longer need to know which agency provides a specific service. Themes include: education and career development; family, health and safety; travel and recreation; business services; Michigan government; and licensing, certification, and permits. Check out the [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) Web site for all the latest Michigan government news.

In conjunction with the [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) Web site, there is a new shortcut to the PTD Web site. Visit [www.michigan.gov/mdotptd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotptd) for PTD organizational information, resources, programs, and publications. Also, make sure you check out the PTD Events Calendar under Resources. If your organization has events you would like to have listed on the PTD Events Calendar, contact your project manager or Gus Lluberres (517/373-8820, E-mail [lluberresg@michigan.gov](mailto:lluberresg@michigan.gov)).

## MTC Gets the Green Light

In early October, transit stakeholders from around the state converged on the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids for this year's Michigan Transit Conference (MTC). From the evaluations received, participants rated the conference a big success.

The agenda for the conference was packed with topics of interest to Michigan transit providers. State Representative Jerry Kooiman kicked off the general session and National Transit Institute trainer Frank O'Hare spoke on transit security. Bob

Whitson, the creator of GO BOULDER, was on hand to share information on how to implement community transit through involvement and perseverance.

John Powers' inspirational message, "Passion: Do What You Love, Love What You Do," received high ratings and left participants wanting more. The breakout sessions were the way to go for information and lively interaction. Four transit agencies shared transportation successes in the "Michigan Showcase" which was new this year and recommended by participants to bring back next year.

A big thank you to our generous vendors who sponsored an evening at the Van Andel Center Museum with mementos from the carousel rides and an evening with comedian Mike Veneman. Also, thanks to the Grand Plaza Hotel's staff who made the conference team's work easier.

Linda Tuttle, who coordinated the planning of the MTC for the past several years, has retired, so it is time to pass the planning responsibilities into other capable hands. Participants from this year's meeting have already offered suggestions on topics for next year's meeting. We encourage others to offer topics and, most importantly, to volunteer to be a member of the MTC planning committee.

For more information, or to provide input on the 2003 Michigan Transit Conference, contact Lisa Funk at 517/373-8746, E-mail [funkl@michigan.gov](mailto:funkl@michigan.gov).



## **Around the State**



### **BATA Welcomes New Manager**

After conducting a statewide search and reviewing 26 applications, Branch Area Transit Authority (BATA) welcomes Kara Derrickson as its new manager. Prior to assuming the duties of manager, Kara was the bookkeeper at BATA.

Kara reports to a nine member board and takes over the countywide system with 11 buses and 20 employees. She replaces Dawn Mason who resigned in September to further her education.

### **St. Joseph County Welcomes New Transportation Coordinator**

St. Joseph County welcomes its first transportation authority coordinator and he's not a stranger to the public transit community. Retired MDOTer Russ Laverty began work as the new coordinator of the St. Joseph County Transit Agency the day after his state retirement.

While at MDOT, Russ was a project manager working on public transportation in southern Michigan. He helped local governments with applications, administration matters, maintenance and operations problems, and provided general assistance to the transit systems. St. Joseph County Commissioner Gerald Loudenslager said, "We looked at many good candidates. Russ was by far the individual with the most experience and knowledge. We feel extremely lucky to get a person of this caliber for this position in St. Joseph County" (quote reprinted from the *Sturgis Journal*).



### **Kalamazoo Metro Transit Has a Record Day!**

Congratulations to Kalamazoo Metro Transit for reporting the most local bus passenger trips ever reported in a single day. On October 3, 2002, Kalamazoo Metro Transit provided 16,417 free passenger trips as part of the national "Communities in Motion" celebration, sponsored by the American Public Transit Association (APTA).

Kalamazoo Metro provided the rides free of charge to encourage people to try public transportation as an alternative to their regular modes of travel.

---

### **Five-Year Transit Training Plan in the Works!**

A five-year transit training plan has been developed by Wayne State University through the Michigan Transit Center for Excellence. The Training/Education Advisory Team will be charged with taking the training plan developed by Wayne State and fine tuning it to meet the needs of Michigan's transit agencies.

The team will make recommendations on training topics and schedules. With the statewide training supplementing the excellent training provided locally by the transit agencies, the staff of the Michigan transit agencies will be the best trained transit providers in the country.

Now is your chance to be in on the ground floor in the development of the five-year training plan for Michigan transit systems. If you would like to join the Training/Education Advisory Team, please contact Jill Adams at 517/373-2051 or by E-mail at [adamsji@michigan.gov](mailto:adamsji@michigan.gov). The Training/Education Advisory Team will be heavily involved in the design and implementation of the training, so make sure you have time to commit before volunteering for the advisory team.

## PTD Welcomes Three New Employees

The PTD's Program Administration Section, Financial Management Unit welcomes three new employees: Stuart Lindsay, Ann Mazurek, and Rebecca Titus.

**Stuart Lindsay** is the division's new Aging and Disability Specialist. He is responsible for providing technical assistance regarding the Americans with Disability Act and other transportation policies and programs important to the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Stu will work closely with a variety of external aging and disability organizations in an advocacy role regarding transportation issues. He is a veteran of several statewide transportation and human services programs and served for eight years as MDOT's state coordinator of the Michigan Operation Lifesaver public safety program.



**Stu Lindsay**

Before joining MDOT in 1990, Stu worked in mental health and substance abuse services, and was a member of many statewide advisory boards and advocacy groups related to health policy and planning. Stu may be contacted at 517/335-2598 or by E-mail at [lindsays@michigan.gov](mailto:lindsays@michigan.gov).

**Ann Mazurek** is a financial analyst in the Financial Management Unit. She assures that over \$156 million annually is properly disbursed to local transit agencies through the statewide Local Bus Operating Assistance Program.



**Ann Mazurek**

Ann is also the closeout coordinator and is responsible for administering the audit closeout of all division agreements, which includes initiating requests for audit, monitoring the status of audit disputes, and dispensing of the audit findings. In addition, Ann is responsible for the review and approval of cost allocation methodologies submitted by transit agencies.

Ann has been with MDOT for 12 years and has worked as an auditor with the Office of Commission Audits, a contract administrator with the Financial Services Division, and a contract analyst with the Design Division. Ann may be contacted at 517/241-3894 or by E-mail at [mazureka@michigan.gov](mailto:mazureka@michigan.gov).

**Rebecca Titus** is the new checklist/contract manager in the Financial Management Unit. She is responsible for coordinating and securing approvals of project checklists which are used to initiate statewide federal and state funded operating/capital projects with transit agencies.

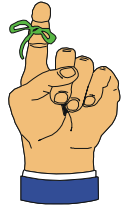


**Rebecca Titus**

Rebecca will be working with division staff to develop contract language and expedite the processing of project authorizations and contracts. She has worked for MDOT for 31 years and comes to PTD from the Design Division. You can contact her at 517/241-3221 or by E-mail at [titusr@michigan.gov](mailto:titusr@michigan.gov).

The Passenger TransActions is a quarterly news bulletin produced by the Michigan Department of Transportation, Passenger Transportation Division for the public transit providers in Michigan. Suggestions or comments may be sent to Jill Adams, MDOT/Passenger Transportation Division, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909, or call 517/373-2051 (E-mail: [adamsji@michigan.gov](mailto:adamsji@michigan.gov)). The Passenger TransActions is also available online at [www.michigan.gov/mdotptd](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotptd) - latest issue under Publications. Alternative formats such as large print, braille, or audio-tape are available upon request by calling Stu Lindsay 517/335-2598 (E-mail [lindsays@michigan.gov](mailto:lindsays@michigan.gov)). Total quarterly cost to print 500 copies: \$75.00 (\$0.15 per copy).

## Dates to Remember



### December 2002

Instructor's Course in Bus Operator Training  
December 9-12, 2002: Maplewood, NJ  
Federal Transit Administration/Transportation  
Safety Institute (FTA/TSI): 405/954-3682

Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation  
December 9-13, 2002: Murfreesboro, TN  
FTA/TSI: 405/954-3682

Introduction to Transportation/Air Quality  
Conformity  
December 11-13, 2002: Indianapolis, IN  
NTI: 732/932-1700

Training/Education Advisory Team  
Meeting  
December 10, 2002: Lansing, MI  
Passenger Transportation Division  
Jill Adams: 517/373-2051

Fleet Maintenance Management  
December 16-17, 2002: Madison, WI  
University of Wisconsin-Madison: 800/462-1299

### January 2003

Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction  
January 8-9, 2003: El Paso, TX  
FTA/TSI: 405/954-3682

Fatigue Awareness Seminars  
January 13-14, 2003: Tampa, FL  
FTA/TSI: 405/954-3682

Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies  
January 13-16, 2003: Baltimore, MD  
FTA/TSI: 405/954-3682

### February 2003

Transit Bus System Safety  
February 3-7, 2003: Cleveland, OH  
FTA/TSI: 405/954-3682



*Season's Greetings  
From the Passenger  
Transportation Division Staff*

## Newsletter Survey

The Passenger TransActions is published quarterly by the Passenger Transportation Division as a service to our customers – the Michigan transportation community – and we would like to find out if the newsletter is meeting the needs of our customers. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey and send it to us either by mail (address below) or fax (number below). Thank you in advance for your comments.

Does the newsletter provide up-to-date information about transit in Michigan? (please explain)

---

---

Is the format of the newsletter easy to read? (circle one)    Yes    No

If not, what suggestions do you have to improve the appearance of the newsletter.

---

---

What issues/topics would you like to see discussed in the newsletter? Please be specific.

---

---

---

Do you circulate or share the newsletter with others in your organization? (circle one)    Yes    No

Any other comments you would like to make regarding the Passenger TransActions?

---

---

---

---

**Please note:** An important part of the newsletter is the “Around the State” section which features news about transit agencies. The Passenger TransActions is a excellent way to get the news out about the great things happening in your community. Consider submitting an article for publication in the newsletter today.

Mail responses to:

Jill Adams  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
Passenger Transportation Division  
P O Box 30050  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Fax: 517/373-7997